



Tulip Times

Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural
Established 1917

Fall 2014

President's Message

It's difficult to put your garden to bed, but unfortunately it is that time again. I'm looking through my window at my magnificent papyrus grass, wishing that it would winter through, not to mention hoping that I will, too. It is a time for thinking back on what worked well this year in your garden, and those things that did not do so well. But for gardeners, it's also the time that the catalogues start coming out for those wintery evenings when you can plan the biggest and best garden ever.

In July, we had a very successful Garden Tour with over 10 intriguing gardens and the added treat of musical performances in some of the gardens. Standing in front of an exquisite rose bush was definitely enhanced by hearing a harp or a clarinet as punctuation to your thoughts.

In late June, a group of members met at the Memorial Garden at the corner of Nassau and William Street, which hadn't been tended for a while. So we added two new trees (albeit small),

Past Happenings...

NOTL Horticultural Society Memorial Garden

This spring a group of members started work on reviving the Hort. Society's Memorial Garden at the corner of William and Nassau Streets. It had become overgrown and messy. So they clipped, pruned and planted some small trees and annuals. In the spring, we will look to more ambitious changes, as it is a lovely park and it could be put to better use by members of the community.



A few members of the Memorial Garden volunteers surveying the trimming and planting: Ken Santsche, Sherry St. Denis, Marla Percy, and Aurel James.

planted a new hosta bed, pruned the bushes, trimmed back the container bed, and planted some annuals. Soon the annuals will go and we will plant some left-over bulbs from the tulip sale and look forward to the results next spring.

We also ran a series of garden strolls last summer, when members shared their gardens with other members. Participants found it enjoyable and inspiring (many notes were taken). It was also a great way to get acquainted with other members. We're hoping to continue this practice with a few changes in the organizational aspects of the strolls.

I went to the OHA Convention in Cornwall, Ontario in July and heard some **interesting** speakers, although many were from eastern Ontario, so impractical for getting them here. There were some interesting ideas which the Board is looking at for the future. I did succumb to buying plants from a woman selling at the conference and then spent the first of August trying to find places for them.

Diane and I went to the District 9 meeting in St. Catharines in October, and heard about some of the organizational things she and I will need to do for the Hort. Society, but we won't bore you with the minutiae. We have almost completed our 2015 slate of speakers, and have tried to cover a variety of topics. We're looking forward to the annual pot luck dinner, which is always a good time to see old friends,



We disturbed one of the denizens of the Memorial Bed who was not amused by our handiwork.

NOTL Horticultural Society 23rd Annual Garden Tour

For many years the wonderful volunteers of the NOTL Horticultural Society have risen to the challenge of organizing a Garden Tour extraordinaire. The 23rd annual tour was held on July 5, 2014. The day dawned beautifully bringing fabulous weather to our small town along with 800+ visitors. Our print material advertised 9+ gardens but in reality our visitors got much more for their money as we presented 14 gardens in total, including a group of 6 small courtyard gardens off a parking lane way behind a group of town homes. **Every** garden was charming in their own right. There were both large and small gardens enabling our visitors to take away so many new ideas. We added a new twist this year, including several musicians in two of the gardens and received very positive comments on the variety of music presented. The organizing committee has already started to plan for next year's Tour.

but to meet new ones as well.

Last year, one of our projects was to give money to the NOTL Library to help with their garden restoration plans. This year we continued with that theme and gave money to buy seven benches for the site which will have our name on them. If you're dexterous enough, you can carve your initials on the underside. I hope you will continue to be involved in our projects, as that is the part of belonging that is the most fun.

Marla Percy and Diane Hemmings

Reverie

A warm and cheery fire roars merrily
And shadows dance about the
darkened room.
Beside the hearth a gardener sits and
dreams
Of sunny days, of flowers in full bloom.
Some hollyhocks should tower near the
fence,
Bright red. ones that the bees can't help
but find.
The trellis at the gate again must wear
Blue morning glories, or the rosy kind.
To lend a bit of distance to the scene,
Close to the rear I'll plant in shades of
blue:
The tall and stately larkspur, double
ones
Of course I'll put in scabiosa, too.
I couldn't do without a pansy bed
Snapdragons make such beautiful
bouquets
Frilled zinnias and yellow marigolds
Add just the proper touch to autumn
days.

**The 24th Annual Tour will be held on
Saturday July 4, 2015.** Keep that date open
and we look forward to seeing you there.



The flowers grow and bloom with
loveliness
Until a sound destroys the fantasy
A burning ember falls and I must leave
My garden and my charming reverie.

- HELEN BATH SWANSON

Upcoming Meetings
Community Centre
14 Anderson Lane,
Refreshments 6:30. Meeting 7:00 pm.

Tues. Nov. 25th

Pot Luck/Annual General Meeting

Time: 6:00 pm.

Don't miss a great social evening of
fun, friendship, great food and see what
else we have in store for you.

Please bring a canned good to donate
to Newark Neighbours

No Meeting in December

Other Happenings

Fri. December 5th

Vineland Research Centre Poinsettia

Research Open House 1:00–4:00 pm.

Location: Potting Shed, Vineland
Research and Innovation Centre, 4890
Victoria Ave. North, Vineland Station

Please bring a non-perishable food item
for the local food bank. Come and vote
for your favourite poinsettia!



At our **September** meeting Hilary Bellis taught
us how to create a beautiful flower arrangement
in a vase. Members brought a gorgeous
assortment of greenery, flowers and branches,
which they generously shared with those who
didn't have any, and went home with fantastic
bouquets. Thanks to Hilary, we all learned a
lot about how to use plant material from our
own gardens to beautify our homes.



Sun. March 15th Seedy Sunday

9:30 am.– 3:30 pm. at Dunlop Drive Senior Centre, 80 Dunlop Drive, St. Catharines. Sponsored by District 9 & Master Gardeners, Seedy Sunday is the sharing of open-pollinated seed.

Fri. March 20th

Flowers for Seniors – Welcome Spring Celebration

Members will spend the morning at the Virgil Arena making flower arrangements which will be distributed to seniors in local nursing homes and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital.

Sat. May 9th

NOTL Horticultural Plant Sale

We will have a fantastic assortment of plants for sale donated by our members at the **Virgil Arena 9:00 am. to 12:00.**

June to Sept. - Member Garden Stroll

Members are invited to stroll through other member's gardens. Meet & Greet, learn something new; details will be sent via email.

Early June

Royal Botanical Gardens, Lilac Show

Spend the day at these beautiful gardens in Burlington and their lilacs in bloom.

Sat. July 4th, 2015 - 24th Annual Garden Tour

Rain or shine; self guided tour 10 am.– 4 pm. Buy tickets online or at various locations.

Website: www.notlhortsociety.com

Email: notlhortgardentour@gmail.com

At our **October** meeting Steven Biggs gave a presentation on growing figs and other no fuss backyard fruit in a northern climate without a greenhouse.

Update on the NOTL Community Garden Project

Work on the NOTL Community Garden is in full swing and it is really beginning to take shape. Things have slowed down due to the recent wintry weather but the bones of the garden have been installed; interlock pathways, a gazebo, an arbour and several beds. It'll be exciting to see how it looks in the spring when it's fully planted.



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Here are some fall dos and don'ts, plus tips to help your garden get a jump-start on spring

As autumn leaves drift by your window, it may be tempting to look outside and think idle thoughts about nature taking care of itself. But like the rest of us, Mother Nature needs a good kick in the pants once in a while. Here are some fall dos and don'ts, plus tips to help your garden get a jump-start on spring.

[1] When available, pop 'Icicle' pansies into spots where summer annuals have been cleared out. They will bloom until December, then lie down for the winter. Cover them with evergreen cuttings until earliest spring, when they'll be ready to sprout new flower buds.

[2] Leaves are garden gold. Spread small leaves of trees, such as honeylocust, birch, beech, ginkgo and silver maple (or shredded large Norway maple leaves), under shrubs and over all exposed soil. They will degrade into mineral nutrients; worms will turn them into fertilizer.

[3] Take a gamble and throw seeds of hardy annuals where you want them to bloom next year. Larkspur, poppies, cleome and cosmos will frequently take root from seeds sown in autumn and conditioned under winter snow.

[4] Plant bulbous Asiatic and Oriental lilies in late fall to ensure flower bud set. When planting is delayed until spring they may not get enough chilling and come up blind, with no flowers.

[5] Wait until the soil has frozen before mulching autumn-installed plants. After

Web Links To Check Out:

Canada AM CTV

Great site with lots of good information from Mark Cullen on gardening.

<http://canadaam.ctvnews.ca/gardening>

Organic Gardening

<http://organicgardening.com/>

Organic Gardening magazine brings you expert garden advice, helpful tips for beginners, useful information about beneficial insects, how to make compost, ...

Garden Web

<http://gardenweb.com/>

GardenWeb is the largest gardening site on the Web, with garden forums, articles on gardening, directories of nurseries, gardens and gardening organizations, ...

Acorn Squash with Cranberry Apple Stuffing

2 acorn squash
boiling water
2 apples, peeled, cored and chopped into ¼ inch pieces
½ cup dried cranberries
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 tablespoons grapeseed oil or coconut oil

1. Cut squash in half and with a spoon, remove pulp and seeds
2. In a 9 x 13 inch baking dish place squash cut-side down
3. Pour ¼-inch boiling water into baking dish (*or use ¼ inch room temperature apple juice for extra sweetness*)

freeze-up, a thick mulch of leaves and evergreen cuttings will keep their root balls safe from the heaving action of frost.

[6] Plant garlic in October, in a sunny spot with lots of manure dug in. Set individual cloves eight centimetres deep and 15 centimetres apart, and mulch with five to eight centimetres of leaves. Hard-neck Rocambole garlics such as 'Music' are the hardiest strains, and, when planted in October, can be harvested in July, just as the first cherry tomatoes turn red.

[7] Autumn is a good time for planting evergreen trees and shrubs. The evergreens' root systems pump water all winter, so be sure to water them well before the ground freezes. And don't hesitate to purchase deciduous flowering shrubs at discounted prices. Even after a summer in containers, they'll adapt and make strong root growth in cool autumn soil.

[8] Autumn is the only time to move clematis or honeysuckle vine to prevent shock to growth: both vines begin extending leaves and shoots while frost is still in the spring ground. If the vines are large, cut them back by half, and they'll leap forward next spring.

[9] Use generous amounts of anti-transpirant sprays (available at garden centres) on needle evergreens and broadleaf evergreens, such as euonymus, Japanese pieris and rhododendrons. The waxy coating helps to preserve tissue moisture and prevent winter windburn and sunscald. And lavish it on your Christmas tree to help keep it fresh through the holidays.

4. Place dish in oven and bake squash for 30 minutes at 350°
5. In a large bowl, combine apples, cranberries, cinnamon and oil to make stuffing
6. Remove squash from the oven after 30 minutes
7. Turn halves over and stuff center of each squash half with apple mixture
8. Return to oven and bake for 30-35 minutes (or longer) until squash and apples are tender

Serves 4

Newsletter Editor: Karen Jones

[10] Root vegetables such as carrots and parsnips are sweeter after hard frost and can be harvested all winter. Remove top foliage from the plants and cover them with a 15-centimetre-thick mulch of leaves or straw (available from garden centres) spread to similar thickness. Throw an old piece of carpeting on top and let it snow. Lift the coverings to dig out veggies as needed.

[11] Unless you really are Snow White, try not to create a garden of little winter dwarfs all wrapped up in burlap coats. Tightly wrapped burlap does plants more harm than good by potentially holding ice against their tissues. To protect them from wind or household dryer vent emissions, set up stake-and-burlap barriers, fastened with diaper pins, to break air currents.